

Pakistan's Foreign Policy Of Pakistan: The Personal Assessment

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Introduction :

No country today can think of a life independent of other nation. Every country has to develop relations with other countries so as to meet its requirements in economical, industrial and technological fields. It is thus necessary for every country to formulate a sound foreign policy.¹

The foreign policy dictates how a country will act with respect to other countries politically, socially, economically and military, and to a somewhat lesser extent, how it behaves towards non-state actors. It is a strategy or combination of strategies carefully formulated by one state of maintaining relations with other states and non state actors for protection and promotion of national interests.

Quaid e Azam vision of Foreign policy of Pakistan:

The foreign policy of Pakistan is guided by the vision and principles set forth by the founding father of the country, Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, who said that:

“Our foreign policy is one of friendliness and goodwill towards all the nations of the world. We do not cherish aggressive designs against any country or nation. We believe in the principle of honesty and fair play in national and international dealings and are prepared to make our utmost contribution to the promotion of peace and prosperity among the nations of the world. Pakistan will never be found lacking in extending its material and moral support to the oppressed and suppressed peoples of the world, and in upholding the principles of the United Nations Charter”

Foreign Policymaking agencies of Pakistan:

The Parliament, Ruling Party In Lower House and Governmental Cabinet makes The Foreign policy under the purview Of Prime Minister.

Basic Goals of Pakistan Foreign Policy:

- Maintenance of territorial integrity.
- Maintenance of its political independence.
- Acceleration of social and economics development.
- Strengthening its place on the globe.
- Keep Cordial and friendly relation with all country.

¹Idrees , Shifa. : <https://www.slideshare.net/ShefaIdrees/pakistan-foreign-policyits-objectives-and-principles>

Principles of Pakistan's Foreign policy:

The primary objective of Pakistan's foreign policy is to safeguard the national security, territorial integrity and political sovereignty of the country.

1. To protect Pakistan's economic interests abroad.
2. To project the image of Pakistan as a progressive, modern and democratic Islamic country.
3. To promote peace, stability and friendly relations with Afghanistan.
4. To find the resolution of all disputes with India including the issue of Kashmir. Raise the Kashmir issue on international forums.
5. To forge cordial and friendly relations with all neighbours, Muslim countries and the larger international community.
6. To fulfil its responsibilities as a responsible member of the international community.
7. To prevent and respond to threats and capitalize on opportunities.
8. To safeguard the interests of Pakistani Diaspora.
9. To become a Member of the International Organization.

Aims/Objective of Pakistan Foreign Policy:

Following are the aims/objectives of Pakistan's foreign policy.

- National Security
- Territorial integrity
- Economics well-being
- National prestige.

Elements Affecting Foreign policy:

- The political organisation found in a country also greatly influence the foreign policy.
- For Example, authoritarian system quick foreign policy decision taken
- The press also plays a vital role in the foreign policy formulation process. The nature of political accountability prevailing in a system also greatly influence the foreign policy of the state.
- The leadership also play a vital role in the shaping of a country's foreign policy.
- The great power structure prevailing in the world politics also greatly influence the policy of a country.
- While making foreign policy the state has to take note of international law, treaties and contract.
- While formulating its foreign policy a country has to take note of the reaction of other states to its various actions.

- The world public opinion also influences the state's foreign policy.²

History of Pakistan foreign policy:

Pakistan's Foreign Policy has always remained the Arab Centric with Saudi Arab having a Central role and Even its alignment towards the US since Independence. Pakistan has never

revisited its Foreign Policy holistically to suit the Needs of the country on independent approach. Since Independence, Pakistan has never clarified its stance on Foreign Policy development and the Terms of Engagement with its neighbours and the big powers. That was why Pakistan's First Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan Preferred the US than Russia for its Friendship and paid his visit to America and became the part of West Block than East Block ie the then USSR.

Though Pakistan played a pivotal role in Russia-Afghan war this strategic partnership did not bear any fruit for the nation due to Political instability, Strong Military Intervention and weak fiscal Policies.

This Diplomatic relationship or bonhomie has never proved Fruitful for the country owing to America being a fair weather Friend as Pak-US relations have always been marred by Distrust. Event Security Aid offered to Pakistan by America affected its Independent Foreign Policy to the extent that the used aid as a pressure tool to force Pakistan to do More to combat terrorism and remove Safe haven of terrorists within Pakistan Domain. Although, Pakistan laid down numerous sacrifices of Soldiers and Civilians; approximately over 100000 in so-called War against Terrorism. Pakistan has already paid a heavy price to be an Ally of Pakistan.

Especially, American led NATO strikes on Afghanistan in which Pakistan was asked to cooperate and hand over the Airports and Roads for Transportation of weapons to Afghanistan for NATO forces to topple Taliban Government and to kill or capture Osama Bin Ladin -The Mastermind of 9/11 Strike on World Trade Centre. American president Bush attacked Afghanistan to avenge the 9/11 incident and to please his fellow Americans. Ever since the Strike, Afghanistan is still unstable despite the passage of 17 years of American led NATO Forces Presence. Even Taliban control 40 % of Afghanistan till today. There is no peace and frequents Suicide attacks on NATO forces and civilians have become the order of the day.

America is losing the Afghan war against terrorism badly but it resorts to blaming Pakistan for Terrorist Safe Havens along the Durand line and its fiasco in Afghan War is being associated with Pakistan but the statistics suggest that Pakistan has suffered a lot than the US. Hundreds of Civilians and Soldiers were killed in Suicide Bomb blasts on Mosques, Churches, Temples, Schools and other Political Rallies.

This happened because Pakistan cooperated with the US in Afghanistan allowing it to use Pakistan's soil against the Taliban. Such cooperation enraged Taliban against Pakistan and they become fierce enemies of Pakistan – especially its brave Armed forces who initiated their major offensive against these Extremists in shape of Operation Zarb-e-Azb and Operation Rad-ul-Fassad which broke their Waist and Pakistan returned to peace. The Pak-Afghan border became

² Ibid.

the route for Aghan Taliban to penetrate in KPK and Punjab. Our Political Parties have never mandated the Security agencies against such extremist forces owing to their close linkages with them by a few political parties who have never condemned these elements rather supported them privately. After APS attack, Political parties gave go head to Paramilitary forces to launch Operation after adopting National Action Plan and establishing NACTA.

Pakistan Army has given unprecedented sacrifices for the defence of the country but Americans remained stuck to do more and same narrative of “Do More” prompted American President Donald Trump to blame Pakistan Through tweet that Pakistan has deceived the US despite being paid billions in Security Aid. That blame stirred widespread protests against Us in Pakistan by various Parties. Even, ISPR Chief Major General Asif Ghafoor said that the aid they received is just \$225 Million, not Billion. Even, the then PML-N Government was on the same page with ISPR and decided to review and reshape their Policy with new and equal terms of Engagement with the US but unfortunately that did not materialize since it was too late for them to respond as there was no Foreign Minister in PML-N Government for almost four years, only Sartaj Aziz worked as Advisor to PM on Foreign Affairs .

Pakistan did fail in devising an independent foreign Policy due to being the recipient of Security aid from the US and they stood Mum over the issue for several days until the regular debate on Electronic Media compelled them to clarify and respond to the allegation that rocked the country’s supremacy and Respect amongst world Nations.³

Problems Facing by the Current Foreign policy of Pakistan:

Now, when the **new government** (PTI) has emerged as single majority Party at Centre and likely to form a government in Center, Punjab, KPK and Coalition Government in Baluchistan.

Internationally trade ties with neighbours It has great opportunity to devise an independent Foreign Policy for Pakistan to boost up its image Internationally and building Trade ties with neighbours. In his Victory Speech, Imran Khan envisaged his Foreign Policy that he intends to extend trade links and **economic connectivity** in the region and beyond.

In the Foreign Policy of PTI led Government, Saudi Arab and Iran will have a central role followed by Old friend China. **CPEC** He resolved to maintain friendly relations with China and continue the CPEC projects for Infrastructural Development of Pakistan. He said that **relationship with Saudi Arab and Iran** will benefit Pakistan on ideological grounds and help improve Pakistan economically.

Envisaged US-Pak Relations on equality basis He also envisaged US-Pak Relations on equality basis which may be beneficial for both Nations rather than the imposition over other. Especially, Imran Khan’s interests in maintaining Stability in Afghanistan as except this, there would be looming security threats for Pakistan. Pakistan envisages engagement with Washington on equality basis and as a key ally to the US on basis of Mutual interest and trust.

³Malik, Abdul Rehman .

<https://morning.pk/story/27571> .

peace in Afghanistan He aspired that there should be peace in Afghanistan so that we have open borders with Afghanistan for trade as Afghanistan is a landlocked Country and it has only option to have traded through Pakistan.

About relations with India, he had the clear position that Pakistan wants Trade with India and other neighbours but the **Kashmir issue** has the central role.

He offered India for dialogue to discuss the issue on Table Talks rather than indulging in Blame Game for Internal incidents. He stressed that the trade between Pakistan and India will mutually benefit both countries. Since PTI's main objective is to revive the Pakistan economy and decrease the growing foreign Debt and boosting and attracting investments in the country. He went on to say that If India advances one Step forward, I would advance two steps as it is very important for the people of Kashmir that the issue must be resolved through Dialogue to pave the way for the trade.

Let's hope that if PTI led Government reshapes the Foreign Policy of Pakistan and the Terms of Engagement with Neighbors and big powers i.e US, China and Russia, it will have far-reaching effects and Pakistan will reap the benefits of Regional Connectivity and revival of Economy provided that the New Envisioned Policy is implemented in letter and spirit. Since it is the right time to do every possible attempt and utilize every possible option to revive the economy and bringing in foreign investments and getting rid of foreign Debt.

Imran Khan's Foreign Policy Vision has been welcomed by the world especially Saudi Arab, Iran, India, US, China and Afghanistan and all the countries showed their resolve to extend bilateral relations with New PTI Government of Pakistan. Even, Afghan President, Ashraf Ghani through his tweet confirmed that he had a Telephonic conversation with Imran Khan and have extended the invitation to Imran Khan to pay his kind visit to Afghanistan and reiterated his stance to extend bilateral relations. A similar gesture was also shown by Saudi Arab, Iran, China, US and India through their Ambassadors and foreign Office Spokesman.

There is also a plan in the ranks of PTI to invite all the SAARC Member Nations' PMs, Presidents including Indian PM Narendra Modi, Afghan President, Ashraf Ghani, Saudi Arab Prince, Turkish President Erdogan to participate in oath taking ceremony of Imran Khan as PM of Pakistan but PTI's spokesman Mehmood-ul Rashid confirmed that such development is in pipeline and it will be discussed in the meeting after the process of formation of Governments in centre, Punjab and KP.⁴

Analysis :

I do agree with the article of Mr Abdul Rehman Malik till few extents which published into daily Morning mail. in the current situation, as our country is facing internal and external issues economically and morally. therefore present foreign minister displayed the strategy of Pakistan in front of the world and trying to remove the blame mud which the hostile countries have applied over Pakistan for several years.

⁴ Ibid.

Let's hope Mr Qureshi may complete a successful term as a foreign minister, for that he will need a regular engagement with his boss, the prime minister, particularly when it comes to forging an inter-institutional consensus on key foreign policy and national security issues.

Definitely, It will be difficult, but it is also possible. Furthermore, Pakistan is building a good relationship between all countries and especially strong with those to whom we already have a good relationship. For example, we are going to extend quality work in CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) with collaboration with other states and in this purview, Pakistan has signed an agreement with Saudia Arabia and will working on it more than before to enhance the relationship with the other counties.

moreover, the PM of Pakistan should connect all Islamic country in one unit under the umbrella of OIC. Therefore It's the start of the new government and we hope that Pakistan will be moving forward as a developed country in a future perspective. Internally Pakistan is trying to establish a good administration for the people of Pakistan.⁵

Foreign Policy and Intrastate Affairs: A Personal View :

As we know that Pakistan is not a developed the country and it needed economic and social support this time to resolve an internal issue such as:

- The low class/poor people of Pakistan couldn't survive those increased prices which have been imposed by the current government.
- The government must have to plan first about poor people that how could they can bear the expenses of daily life routine.
- To draft a policy which may be good for Pakistan in term of strategy in UN and worldwide.
- The real face of Pakistan which world is seeing should be according to our culture, values and dignity not according to western values based.
- People of Pakistan are facing too many issues regarding their basic needs and wants, they simply cannot understand the governmental matters and how they could understand even though they only have time to earn money whole of the day to fulfil their desires and needs.
- Furthermore, the main departments of Government must be transparent in their mode of functions, as we know that the government is working over transparent departmental accountability such as executive but these practices are taking too much time which is not praisable.
- As per news and documentation, we let know that IMF wouldn't lend to Pakistan. It is the reflection of a rigid foreign policy.

⁵ Ibid .

Conclusion:

One should know that Satisfaction and dissatisfaction exist everywhere, but our point of view must be positive then all thing would in result become positive. As per above-mentioned discussion, here I am concluding Pakistan's current situation. Government is moving on the better side of affairs but it must first have to think to arrange some funds for those people whose survival is not possible in current situation due to poverty, unemployment and due to daily wants and needs.⁶

As much as concern to CPEC and current paki government is concerned ,the Positive kind of understanding Must be developed between Pakistan and China under the new government of PTI, a Recently Published controversial report by Financial Times titled 'Pakistan rethinks its role in Xi's Belt and Road plan' appeared on September 9, 2018 was quite damaging as it referred to Prime Minister's Adviser on Commerce and Industry Abdul Razzak Dawood saying that " the previous government did a bad job negotiating with China on CPEC — they didn't do their homework correctly and didn't negotiate correctly so they gave away a lot." The report says, "Pakistan plans to review or renegotiate agreements reached under China's Belt and Road Initiative, joining a growing list of countries questioning the terms of their involvement in Beijing's showpiece infrastructure investment plan." Although the Ministry of Commerce has rejected the report and said that the Commerce Minister was quoted out of context.